

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING FEB. 28, 2014

GOVERNOR'S BILL No 36 AAC THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Nikki Rasmussen, RN – testimony IN SUPPORT OF #36

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Committee:

I write to urge you to give strong consideration is supporting SB36 “AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.” As a nurse and future Nurse Practitioner, it is in the public’s best interest to rid Nurse Practitioners of the current requirement of maintaining a “collaborative agreement” with a Physician. As you are aware, collaboration does not assure quality of care delivered by Nurse Practitioners. Collaboration is something that healthcare providers do on an “as needed basis.” Collaborative agreements have held some Nurse Practitioners hostage, resulting in Nurse Practitioners having to pay large sums of money for collaboration that would be sought otherwise, if needed.

In the past, individuals attempted to set up a system, by which Physician’s would volunteer to be collaborators, thus there would be a “pool” of potential Physician collaborators. This attempt failed, as Physicians felt that they would be held liable, and still Nurse Practitioners would be required to pay them for their collaboration. Nurse Practitioners have had difficulty finding and maintaining collaborators and some have had to close their practices, if their collaborating Physician died or retired.

The supporting documentation provided by the Connecticut APRNs demonstrates that APRNs are qualified health care providers, with same, if not better outcomes than Physicians.

As a future Nurse Practitioner, I ask that you join the Nurse Practitioners and support SB36 which would allow APRNs to practice to the extent of their education. This will open the doors for those who need access to healthcare providers.

Sincere Regards,

Nikki Rasmussen, RN

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